

S E C R E T-SECURITY INFORMATION

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

JOINT SUBSTANTIVE PLANS DIVISION
JCS Declassification/Release Instructions on
File JCS review completed

SPDM-420-52
26 September 1952

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MEMORANDUM FOR [REDACTED] DIRECTOR,
PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD:

Subject: National Psychological Strategy with
Respect to [REDACTED] (PSB D-21, Draft #6).

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Reference: SPDM-331-52.

1. I have studied the subject paper, and, although I believe that it is an improvement over the previous draft, I feel that certain additional changes, chiefly in structure and emphasis, would further improve its effectiveness as national psychological guidance. [With this in mind, I offer the following comments for the consideration of the Board Alternates, who I understand are presently considering Draft #6. Extra copies, for the use of the alternates are forwarded herewith.]

a. The heart of the strategy, it seems to me, consists of the psychological objectives and tasks. These supply the guidance, based on which:

- (1) The action agencies can plan; and
- (2) Other agencies can furnish appropriate support.

They thus ensure over-all coordination of the national psychological effort. For this reason, I strongly recommend that the objectives and tasks be highlighted by grouping them into a separate section. In this connection, it may be advisable to consider PSB D-11b as a prototype.

b. The inclusion, in the body of the paper, of certain specific actions, has the effect of weakening, rather than strengthening this national guidance. There may well be specific actions which the panel feels merit consideration, and therefore should be highlighted in a separate section or annex. This should be given a title which will make clear

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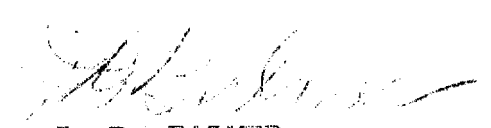
that the actions listed are neither mandatory nor all-inclusive. Further, I believe that action and support agencies should not be specified, since there seems to be no clear understanding of what this implies.

2. In my memorandum of 6 August 1952 (SPDM-331-52) I recommended that the approved strategy be promulgated as guidance. I felt and still feel that this is an essential step towards ensuring responsive and coordinated psychological operations. I recommended at the same time that Section VI of the paper be rewritten to eliminate any mandatory provisions. Because of the many divergent views on the basic issue of Section VI, i.e. authority, I now recommend the following solution:

a. Eliminate Section VI entirely.

b. Promulgate PSB D-21, when approved, as national psychological guidance.

3. I understand that a staff study on "Improvement of Staff Procedures for Development of National Psychological Strategy Plans" is now under preparation by the PSB staff. This may be the vehicle for developing a standard procedure to ensure that effective implementing actions are taken in support of all national psychological guidance. Thus the need for an administrative section with each guidance will be eliminated.]


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